

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 INR-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 /004 W

----- 108647

O 211320Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2212

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 0460

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE, IEA/L,
IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS, BANGKOK FOR VOA AND
HEDGES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: USINFO

A HELICOPTER UNDER CONTRACT TO USAID WAS FORCED DOWN BY
GUNFIRE LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN AN AREA ABOUT 55 MILES
NORTHEAST OF VIENTIANE. THE PILOT AND HIS PASSENGER, A USAID
OFFICIAL, LANDED AND WERE PICKED UP SHORTLY AFTERWARDS BY
ANOTHER USAID CONTRACT HELICOPTER.

THE HELICOPTER WAS FLYING ON A REGULAR ROUTE BETWEEN LONG
CHIENG, A LAO ARMY BASE IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, AND VIENTIANE.
IT WAS NOT, REPEAT NOT, FLYING OVER THE PATHET LAO ZONE. (AN
INITIAL WIRE SERVICE REPORT SAYS THAT THE HELICOPTER WAS OVER
PL TERRITORY -- THIS IS UNTRUE.)

THE AREA WHERE THE HELICOPTER LANDED IS NEAR A LARGE MULTI-
NATIONAL DAM PROJECT, THE NAM NGUM.

THE HELICOPTER BELONGED TO BIRD AND SON, A PRIVATE COMPANY
UNDER CONTRACT TO USAID TO PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND REFUGEE RELIEF PROJECTS. THE CREW OF AN EMBASSY PLANE
FLYING TUESDAY OVER THE SITE WHERE THE HELICOPTER WAS FORCED
DOWN REPORTS THAT IT HAS BEEN APPARENTLY TOTALLY DISMANTELED
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AND AT LEAST SOME PARTS HAD BEEN BURNED.

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WILL SEND A NOTE PROTESTING THE INCIDENT
TO THE LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY.
PATE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HELICOPTERS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI00460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750022-0605
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750132/aaaabcdf.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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